The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Fourth Year of the War.

This week completes the third year of the war. To most of us, 1914 seems an incredibly long time ago. What was then a nightmare from which we hoped at every moment to wake has become the condition of our lives. But this does not mean that we are reconciled to it. Its sorrow is renewed every day. Other wars have been more or less the affair of professionals, affecting only small classes of the population; this has struck at every family in the land. And if we feel stricken *here*, what must this prolonged agony not mean for the invaded and desolated countries, for all the exiles and for those who are living under the heel of the oppressor?

More than ever we are resolute that we must build up new conditions of life in which such things as these cannot happen, and in which freedom and peace shall no longer be "behind the mountains" for half the nations of the world.

A Ministry of Health.

Presiding at a meeting of the National Baby Week Council at Bedford College on Monday, Lord Rhondda said that he only accepted the position of Food Controller on the condition that the work which he had endeavoured to do at the Local Government Board, but had been unable to complete, should not be thrown away. A pledge to this effect had been given to him by the Prime Minister. Lord Rhondda threw some interesting light on the obstruction which his Bill for the creation of a Ministry of Health had met with from the different Government Departments at present dealing with various health questions. He believed that it would be possible, with really efficient organisation, to save the lives of 1,000 babies a week. Yet his Bill was being delayed because of the jealousy between Departments. The scheme is, however, being backed by the British Medical Association, and a draft of it is now before the Prime Minister, so there seems hope that it may soon be put into operation.

Working Class Houses.

A striking statement of the housing problem as affected by the war was recently drawn up by the Joint Committee on Labour Problems after the War (which consists of representatives of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, the Management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, and of the War Emergency Workers National Committee). It asked that the Government should announce a policy on housing, and estimated that 1,000,000 new houses suitable for letting at a weekly rent of a few shillings would be required. It suggested that each local authority should be required to decide within a month whether it would build its quota, with the aid of a free grant from the Government, and that in localities where it refused to do so, the work should be placed under the supervision of a local committee, on which Labour should be represented.

The Local Government Board now announces an important step in this matter. The Secretary of the Department, Mr. Hayes Fisher, states that the War Cabinet proposes to render substantial assistance to local authorities who are prepared, without delay, to carry through approved housing schemes, and he invites these bodies to make formal application for such aid before October 15th.

The housing problem has long been recognised by social reformers as something which lies at the very root of half the other problems with which we have to deal—infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, the terrible diseases which undermine the health of the population; innumerable physical and moral evils are waiting for their cure, till there are decent homes for the people. Women are even more deeply interested in this problem than men, since it is they who have to make homes out of dwellings, many of which are unfit for human habitation. It is earnestly to be hoped that women will be consulted about the houses that are to be built, and that the married working women will be admitted to the Local Government franchise in time to have a say in what is done under the new scheme.

Cheaper Food.

In the House of Lords, on July 20th, Lord Rhondda outlined his policy for securing cheaper food for the nation. This involves fixing the prices at all stages, from the producer down to the retailer, of those articles of prime necessity over the supply of which effective control can be obtained. Such prices will, as far as possible, be fixed on the principle of allowing a reasonable pre-war profit for those engaged in the production and distribution of the particular commodity. Where profits are made illegally, Lord Rhondda considers that the infliction of a fine is hardly likely to prove a sufficient deterrent, and he announces his intention of pressing for imprisonment in all cases that he regards as of sufficient gravity.

A Subsidised Loaf.

The price of bread, when sold over the counter, is to be 9d. a loaf, and the retail price of flour is to be fixed at a rate that will allow the bakers to make a reasonable profit, British wheat being bought by the mills at a price determined by the Government from time to time, and imported wheat being supplied to the mills at a price corresponding with this. Millers will be

encouraged, as far as possible, to buy both wheat and barley direct from the farmer; but where, to ensure proper distribution, a merchant is required, the number of transactions and the profit will be strictly limited.

The Restriction of Dealers.

In the same way all unnecessary middlemen are to be eliminated in the meat trade; but, subject to this elimination, it is intended to use the ordinary channels of the trade and existing agencies for distribution to the fullest possible extent. All wholesale and retail dealers will be registered, and their rates of profit limited by fixing prices. This right to remain on the register will depend on their proper observance of the conditions laid down. It has been very difficult, Lord Rhondda explained, to secure a general and considerable reduction in the price of meat without involving serious loss to the farmers, who at present are having to pay a quite unprecedented price for feeding-stuffs, but it is hoped that by the end of the year prices will be reduced by at least 6d. a lb. retail.

In fixing the actual retail prices, the circumstances of each locality will have to be considered and decided upon by local committees, who will be responsible for enforcing them, and will take over from the War Savings Committee the duty of maintaining and developing national economy in food consumption.

The maximum membership of these committees will probably be twelve, with provision for the representation of labour, and of at least one woman.

Sugar Cards.

To secure a better distribution of sugar, householders are to be asked to register with the grocer from whom they wish to obtain their supply; but apparently there is to be no regulation limiting the supply according to the size of the household. "I have deliberately decided," said Lord Rhondda, "against the introduction of any system of rationing by sugar tickets." It is to be hoped, however, that an effective check will be put on the present system of favouring large customers at the expense of the poor.

Checking Waste.

A statement was issued from the Ministry of Food on Tuesday, with regard to the report of the Medical Officer of Health for Stepney as to waste of bacon in the district, and the improper use of white flour. Action, it is stated, has already been taken, which, it is believed, will guard against any repetition of such occurrences, and Lord Rhondda welcomes the medical officer's report as a justification of his proposal to put the supervision of food supplies in the hands of the local authorities.

Food Prices and Labour Unrest.

The divisional reports of the Commission on Unrest for seven of the eight districts, into which Great Britain was divided for the purposes of the enquiry, were issued on Tuesday, too late for us to discuss them fully in this issue. The reports show that one of the chief causes of unrest is the conviction that food prices have risen partly as the result of manipulation by profiteers, and it is strongly urged that the Government shall take prompt steps either to reduce the present high prices or convince the public that they are inevitable.

Women on Committees.

A Central Billeting Board has been appointed by the Minister of Munitions under the Billeting of Civilians Act, 1917. Out of sixteen members three only are women, a very small proportion considering that the Board will deal with matters of which women have special knowledge. The three members are Miss Markham of the National Service Department, Miss Hadow of the Ministry of Munitions, and Miss Durham of the Ministry of Labour. No provision is made in the Act for the representation of women on the local committees that are to be formed all over the country to work under the Board, but it is to be hoped that representation will everywhere be secured, and that some of the members will be working women.

Another committee on which women have been trying to obtain fuller representation is that appointed to consider questions of reconstruction. To this, it will be remembered, Mrs. Sidney Webb and Dr. Marion Phillips have been appointed, but it is felt that other shades of opinion among women should be represented as well as those for which they stand.

The Position of Industrial Women after the War.

A Conference convened by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations met in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, July 28th.

It consisted of representatives of the organisations affiliated to the Joint Committee* and of representatives of trades unions which admit women. Its business was to discuss the report presented by the Women's Committee to the Joint Committee on Labour problems after the war.

Miss Mary Macarthur was in the chair. In her opening address she said that women who, before the war, had been regarded chiefly as mothers and home makers, had since acquired a new importance as engineers, electricians, munition makers, &c., and that all this was as nothing to the importance which they would now acquire as potential voters.

The fears that some people entertained of a sex war after the war, were vain. There could be no such thing. In the conflict of interests that would, undoubtedly, take place women would not be found ranged on one side and men on the other. The danger was that women might be used to depress the wages of men. This danger would be met if the contention of the Joint Committee that suitability and not cheapness should be the determining reason for the employment of women, could be successfully maintained. She ended by moving an urgency resolution protesting against the lack of representation of industrial women on the Billetting of Civilians Board, and urging that half its members should be women. This was carried unanimously.

Miss Susan Lawrence opened the discussion on the Report. She reminded the meeting of the unemployment and distress which the beginning of war had caused among women. The disorganisation which would follow the declaration of peace promised to be even worse, unless more preparation could be made for it than had been thought of at present. "For what will happen? Till peace is certain they will go on piling up munitions at a feverish rate, and the moment that peace is certain everybody will be thinking of stopping expenditure as quickly as possible."

To meet this condition of things the Joint Committee asks for (*a*) reasonable unemployment pay (Miss Lawrence explained that by reasonable, she meant something like £1 a week); (*b*) some enquiry beforehand as to what firms will be likely to require women; (*c*) reasonable notice to munition workers in Government firms, and, where necessary, payment of their travelling expenses to their homes; (*d*) holidays on full pay for workers who have been hard pressed; (*e*) the use of new Government factories after the war as centres of national production steadying the labour market; (*f*) provision of training, with maintenance, for women who cannot find employment in their own trades, to fit them for new occupations.

Turning to the subject of Factory Legislation, Miss Lawrence said this would have to be built up again from the foundations. The Joint Committee demands a working week of forty-eight hours, so that workers may have some leisure for thought and amusement, as well as for absolutely necessary rest. It also demands the abolition of fines and deductions from wages, the reduction of truck payments; the improvement of sanitary conditions, and various administrative changes. "In short," said Miss Lawrence, "we feel that the Government must set its industrial house in order before the declaration of peace."

Miss Margaret Bondfield dealt with another section of the Report—Trade Union Organisation. She spoke of the burden that the comparatively few organised industrial women would have to carry, in the mass of unorganised women. She dwelt on the importance of not only getting women into all the trade unions, but securing for them an adequate representation in the management, since, in the words of the report, "No form of trade union organisation amongst women can be satisfactory or permanent if it does not aim at encouraging the women to take a large share in the management of their own affairs." There should be women organisers, and, in the case of amalgamation (which the Joint Committee think desirable for unskilled labour) there should be a women's department, with women officers and a women's council.

Doctor Marion Phillips spoke on the reconstruction policy of the Joint Committee, and said that two things were important, that where women had obtained improved conditions during the

* The Women's Trade Union League. The Women's Co-operative Guild. The Women's Labour League. The National Federation of Women Workers. The Railway Women's Guild.

The Report can be obtained from any of these bodies, and should be studied by those who are interested in Industrial Reconstruction.

war, these should be maintained, and that in deciding which trades women should remain in after the war, the criterion should be suitability, and not cheapness. In this connection, the Report advocates the appointment of an inter-departmental committee, consisting of representatives of trade unionists, including women, of doctors (including women doctors), and of persons experienced in the inspection of factories and the employment of women; this committee to have the chief voice in deciding what trades are suitable for women.

Doctor Phillips went on to explain some of the methods which are advocated by the Report for securing that women shall not be used as an instrument to lower the wages of men.

There were questions after each speech, and during the last hour all the questions dealt with in the Report were thrown open for discussion.

The meeting, which included working women of all ages, some white-haired, and some quite young girls, showed itself very much alive. Adult Suffrage, Mothers' Pensions, Free Medical Service from the State, were supported with enthusiasm by various speakers, and one said that what women wanted was not so much the right to work, only too much work was already demanded from them, but rather the right to live, which some seemed inclined to refuse!

On the whole, it appeared that the Report very well expressed the general desires of the meeting, and that they were prepared to endorse its recommendations.

WOMEN AS PENSIONS OFFICERS.

Women are now eligible as old age pensions officers for the London area. There are about a hundred vacancies, the salary commencing at £2 10s. a week, rising after three months to £3. The work will consist chiefly of investigating and reporting particular claims. Preference will be given to women thirty to forty years of age, with past experience of social work. It seems likely that women will soon be employed in the same capacity in other counties, but while their scheme of usefulness is being enlarged in one direction it is being narrowed in another, in which they have proved of great value. Women formerly employed as Investigators of Army and Navy Separation Allowance claims have been notified that this work will in future be undertaken by the Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, whose qualifications for the task are not obvious.

WOMEN WELDERS.

The Ministry of Munitions has shown its appreciation of the training school for women welders at Notting Hill Gate, organised by the London Society of the N.U.W.S.S., by taking over all payments and expenses in connection with it. The Ministry will not interfere with the running of the school, which is acknowledged to be the best of its kind, nor with the selection of the pupils and their subsequent placing. This step was taken as the result of an inspection of the school, when it was found that the pupils, all educated women, were better taught, and the school run more economically, than those already under the control of the Ministry. The work of the school is already familiar to readers of The Common Cause.

REFORM OF THE MARRIAGE LAW.

A private meeting, held in the House of Commons on July 26th, presided over by Sir A. Conan Doyle, decided to promote the passage through Parliament of the following Bill:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1917.
2. From and after the passing of this Act all decrees for a judicial separation and all orders for a separation by any Court of summary jurisdiction shall, after a period of three years from the date thereof, have the same effect and force as a decree absolute for dissolution of marriage, provided always that either the husband or wife so separated shall make application therefor to the Court which has made the decree or order in question, and satisfy the said Court that cohabitation has not been resumed during the said period of three years.
3. It shall also be lawful for any husband or wife to present a petition to the High Court of Justice praying that his or her marriage may be dissolved on the ground that they have been continuously separated for the said period of three years, whether by mutual agreement or for any other reason.

Speaking of the necessity for the reform, Sir A. Conan Doyle stated that the number of married people who were separated and living apart might reach a million at the present time. Those who were legally separated were fewer, but the Bill was drafted to meet the larger number.

The "March Past" of Mistress Hodge.

The great competition held for women agricultural workers at Bishop Stortford on July 25th was, without doubt, an intensely impressive scene. Even those who have worked from the outset of the movement at enlisting and training women for the land, who from behind the scenes, have watched their recruits' successes and failures, and who have in the ordinary course of their work been conversant with the steady development of women's farm labour through the country as a whole, were impressed by last week's demonstration of how much had been accomplished. There were not more than about three hundred competitors, and, as was to be expected, they were drawn mainly from the adjacent counties, Hertfordshire and Essex contributing most largely; but there were women from as far afield as Derbyshire, Somerset, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Sussex. And the three hundred present, a small quota though they might be of the women now enrolled for land-work, were, one felt, the delegates of those others: they were the picked workers, chosen by their committees, or the lucky workers, able through their circumstances, or the encouragement of their employers, to take the journey. If for them it was inspiring and educational to meet fellow-workers from far distant districts, it was for the believer at least, arresting to see them thus in the flesh: for the unbeliever it was dumbfounding: even three hundred women, most of them in breeches, all in complete confidence in themselves and their implements, attained to the dimensions of a crowd upon those sunny grass tracks between the competition grounds.

Those there as spectators will each have his or her own impressions: to me, the day was a March Past of the new land army rather than a competition. Let there be no mistake about it, there was keen and stern competition afoot: the judges were farmers, and their standard was high: the competitors were intensely absorbed in their competition the one with the other. And the tests were not easy: the milking of unknown cows; the driving of unknown ponies through pegs but three inches wider than the width of the cart; harnessing into a farm-cart a farm horse whose neck is above one's head, whose collar is of unbelievable weight; loading a cart with manure, and dumping the load into three even heaps; and chain-harrowing, when the straightest of bouts is exacted, are not easy jobs. Nevertheless surpassing the fact that here were women being tested in their skill, was the impression that this was the new army on its field day, demonstrating the results of its quiet, unostentatious, hard work, and with colours now flying and in review equipment, receiving recognition from a public hitherto often apathetic.

It was a new army of the new style. It represented all classes and conditions of womenkind. There were girls of the professional class, some of them University women; there were representatives of the village gangs, wives and daughters of agricultural labourers, some of whom could not read their time-tables, while one woman, having been instructed to bring her own implements for poultry killing and plucking, carried for miles her own poor hen. There were farmers' daughters; and there were girls who a short time ago had been domestic servants, shop and factory girls. There was a kindly camaraderie between them, as they waited their turns to compete. They were too full of the fire of competition, too eager over what they had to do, too thrilled by the excitement and valour of the day, to think of or hear aught but what was immediately around them. But there was a sub-conscious recognition amongst them of their membership in the same ranks. It was for those who watched them at their work-in-play in the brilliant sunshine to feel the inner significance of the scene. There came the boom of guns from Flanders, clearly audible.

The conclusions to be drawn from the competition can be tentative only. There is not sufficient information to hand to allow of a real analysis of the prize-winners' lists: the ages of competitors were not asked for, nor was any record taken of the experience that the competitors had had upon the land, nor of their occupations before they engaged in its service. One would like to know how youth stood in regard to age; how the girl with less length of experience but more carefully regulated training, compared with the worker who had a longer period of service behind her; how far the greater adaptability that comes with better education equalised, or surpassed, the advantage of past years of manual labour; and how the town-bred woman compared with the woman of the country. This deficiency in statistics could be remedied in future competitions.

I have but information as to the Hertfordshire competitors, and that not complete, from which to draw inferences. The inevitable weakness of the competition was that each test was

necessarily short: there was no test of endurance. It is one thing to hoe rapidly and thoroughly for a quarter of an hour, another to maintain that standard for the village gang's day of seven or eight hours. To a lesser degree in other competitions, the briefness of the test allowed of each being attacked at a pace and with an energy that could not have been kept up for a longer period. This was, of course, an advantage to the younger women, whose youth allowed them to make such spurts: the village gangs, composed mainly of married women in young middle-age up to sixty years old, did take prizes, but they would probably have carried off far more had the trial endured even for two hours. Observation of their work from day to day has shown that their endurance is high, and I doubt very much whether girls trained for general farm work, accustomed to a variety of work, and very rarely called upon for a full day's hoeing, could have competed with them had the test been a matter of hours.

Facts upon which to base conclusions are again scanty, when we try to compare the better with the less educated worker. It is possible only to say that the girl unused to manual work is not at a disadvantage with the girl of the manual-working classes, given that both have equal training in any special job. The heavy work of manure loading was done equally well by both, and girls of both classes were on the go all day, entering for all competitions.

We come to slightly surer ground in the matter of the town-bred and country-bred. The country-bred girl of the labouring classes is, except in those rare cases when she has been brought up with them, no less shy of cows and horses than her town sister. When one knows this, it is not really surprising to find that the town-girl is at no special disadvantage on the land. There have been town girls who have started in such complete ignorance of the rural world that they have not recognised a five-barred gate as a gate, and have wandered round a field trying, presumably, to find a door with a knocker. But in the experience that counts, experience with animals, tools, and implements, they start on a level of complete ignorance with the country girls with whom they are trained, and last week's competition showed them holding their own, and figuring in the prize-lists in, I believe, proportionately equal number. Further, women, formerly domestic servants, whether in town or country, took their quota of prizes, which suggests that their former indoor and rather more comfortable way of life does not place the present farm-worker at a disadvantage.

The judges appear to have been very favourably impressed by the standard of the work. The leading prize-winners in the poultry killing competition were said to be up to professional standard; it is not surprising to hear that the milking was thought very good. In these branches of work there is no reason why women should not do better than men. The hedge-trimming was good. This is work in which a woman, given she is properly clad, should do as well as a man: a novice at the work last year, in order to see what could be done, took on a job at piece-rates, and accomplished it to the farmer's complete satisfaction, while the piece-rate worked out to time-rate brought her sixpence an hour. In those tests in which physique told, manure loading and the harnessing of cart-horses, the farmers were, it seems, agreeably surprised. Not all competitors did the work well, but those who did, proved that it was not beyond the power of a woman of normal stature and muscle.

The Stortford competition stands, without doubt, as the most impressive appreciation by the farmers of what women have accomplished. For that competition was not a thing of the day before: for weeks before a committee of farmers had made the time to prepare for it; and it was this sub-committee of experts, the farmers, who undertook all the practical and detailed organisation of the ground and each competition. To put it modestly, it was a very large undertaking, and it was brilliantly organised, from the planning out of the ground, the collection of implements, poultry, carts, horses, and 160 cows in full milk, to the provision—equally necessary to make the day a success—for the creature comforts of competitors and spectators. Such organisation was not accomplished, whatever the organisers' inherent talent, without much care and labour: by that labour, Mr. Tresham Gilbey and his fellow-workers paid the very greatest compliment to woman's effort to serve her country on the land.

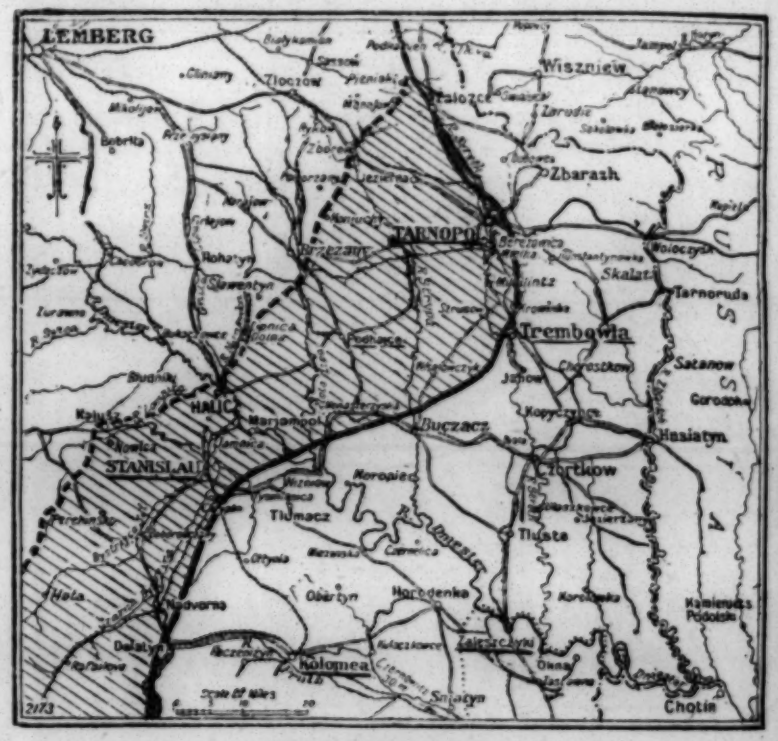
And those farmers who, by their acceptance of it, had won true captainship of the new army, and its loyal adherence, and the competitors, representatives of the ranks behind them, worked side by side, employer and employed, for the success of the day. That joint labour of theirs was true reward to all of us there who for the last eighteen months have striven, often uphill, for some measure of such cohesion.

Jocelyn Dunlop.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

These last days must have been days of trial to the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units. The accompanying map (reproduced by permission of *The Times*) shows Zaleschkiki and Podhajce the two main centres of our hospitals, in the hands of the Germans, and we can infer the difficulties of the retreat when we remember that the hospital at Zaleschkiki was nursing epidemic cases, and that Podhajce, according to a letter received this week, had "600 cases of small operations alone in the last eight or nine days." "All affairs are very restless," this letter tells us. "Orders have been given to clear out and evacuate all the lightly wounded cases"; no easy matter, as "transport is very difficult, and many of them are stretcher cases. Now we are awaiting the big push, if it ever comes."

Since then a telegram from Kiev has announced the bare fact of the retreat of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital and the safety of all the members of the Podhajce unit. The office has not heard directly from the Zaleschkiki Unit, but we know from *The Times* report that they, too, are safe. News is very capricious in its arrival. We may have to hold our breath for some time before we shall know the details of the withdrawal, and whether our Units are engaged on further work. Meanwhile they have our warm wishes, and we are more than ever called upon to give them our financial support for the largest possible continuation of work at a crisis when the Russians will look to every proof of British assistance as an earnest of our good faith.



The Workers' Educational Association from the Women's Side.

Is it possible that, with the rush and stress of war and the increasing difficulty of housekeeping, women have yet time to feel a new impulse towards the call of knowledge? This seems at any rate to be the experience of the Workers' Educational Association, for in spite of war, of darkness, and overwork, their work among women has gone on increasing from year to year, and there is every hope of a further demand for work in the coming autumn and winter.

The W.E.A. tries in every way possible to satisfy any demand of the workers for knowledge—all kinds of knowledge for any kind of worker. Often the opportunity of using clubs and meetings already organised, is taken. Lecturers are sent to girls' clubs, mothers' meetings, guild meetings, clubs for soldiers' wives, and subjects vary from talks on Europe or France or London, to home nursing or child psychology or nature study. The chief aim of the Association is, however, to hold courses of study on one subject, preferably throughout the winter, where enough hours are put in for the class to be recognised by the Board of Education.

Women workers in a neighbourhood who wish to meet to learn are gathered together. A Secretary is chosen, and subjects are proposed to the students. By far the most popular during the time of war have been European history, or nursing

and hygiene, but literature, English history, psychology, the evolution of the home, have all had their adherents. A tutor is found, and week by week, after an hour's lecture, the students join in with their questions and discussions. Many of the wives and sisters of men at the front learn for the first time of the history and social conditions of France or Italy or Russia, and read with greater interest their letters from the different fronts, and trace on maps the travellings of their man in the Army. London becomes a different place when the history of its fascinating development has been pointed out, and the lessons from English history prepare the women of to-day for their hoped for political responsibilities in the near future.

Sometimes a course of three or four lectures, once a month, or on following weeks, can be held at girls' clubs, and there is hope that a great deal more of this may be done in the future. Girls who have never been used to listening, and have been working all day, often find it hard to sit down in the evening and devote their brains to new subjects. But in most cases where classes have been held a new light on life is put before the girls, and they forget their fatigue, and look forward to opening the gate of further knowledge. Generally the women meet in a hall or room lent sometimes by a guild, sometimes by a church or chapel, or in a schoolroom of the Education Committee. Older women are there, who have no longer children of the age when they cannot be left, sometimes accompanied by a growing or grown-up daughter, sometimes by a husband, or even by the household dog. Some women have been up at five to get breakfast for the husband who gets to work in the early hours of the morning, but still they manage to take an interest in the lecture, and add their point to the discussion. The younger women, alas! must be more irregular; often they can leave the children in the care of a mother or friend, but their places must sometimes be vacant when colds or measles need their care at home. Still, they come when they can, and often say the weekly lecture is a great relief from the perpetual round of children and housework. Added to the difficulties of the work have been in the three years of the war the darkness and fear of raids.

The awakening of interest in life is quickened also by the socials and branch meetings in the different neighbourhoods, and the invitation to meet members of other branches in the central district, preceding often a lecture by some distinguished man or woman. Here the women members meet the students of all kinds; the men and women from the tutorial classes, the tutors and lecturers, and members of committee, and learn that they are part of an intellectual whole.

One can imagine how the mothers who themselves have their classes, feel an added interest in their children's schooling. Conferences have been held among the workers—mothers and fathers—to discuss the needs of the children's education, and a pamphlet entitled "What Labour Needs from Education," published by the W.E.A., has been the result. Discussions, too, have been held in a few districts between parents and teachers in the schools in order to bring the two sides of the child's life, home and school, more closely into sympathy. It is hoped that many more of these can be arranged in the future, as teachers are everywhere beginning to recognise that if they can gain the influence of the home life of the children in the needs of education, the result of their work will be doubled.

Then we have the aristocracy of the classes—the tutorial class. This ranks as a University course, which the students attend for three years, arranging to write a certain number of essays, and read for them as in a University. The war has dealt severely with these classes—the keenest of the younger men are at the war, the most enthusiastic of the women are working overtime—but, even so, the numbers have gone on increasing, and there is every hope that when the war is over many of the workers will see the need and pleasure of adding to their store of knowledge in this way.

Such has been the work in the past—there is much to do in the future. All who feel that the "Educated Democracy," which is the goal of our ambition, must include women as well as men can help. Some can organise classes, some can lecture, and, wherever possible, from girls' clubs to mothers' meetings, can increase the desire for real knowledge, which is the beginning of the education, not only of the rising generation, but of the whole mass of the people.

G. B. Ashford.

SOME INTERESTING APPOINTMENTS.

Mrs. Kellet, a member of the Camb. W.S.A. Committee, has been appointed Inspector of Women's Agricultural Work in the county of Shropshire.

Mrs. Adeane, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, has been co-opted as an Alderman by the Cambs. County Council.

A Notable Convert.

Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, has been elected, unopposed, as Member of Parliament for the Borough of Cambridge. The vacancy has been caused by the retirement of Mr. Almeric Paget, who was one of the small minority of fifty-five who voted for the exclusion of women from the Representation of the People Bill.

Cambridge suffragists gain substantially by the change of member. In reply to a letter from the Chairman of the Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, Mrs. Heitland, who had expressed the hope that the new member of His Majesty's Government would support the measure of Women's Suffrage provided by the Representation of the People Bill, Sir Eric Geddes, writing on July 22nd, replied as follows:—

"I feel I should like to preface my reply to your letter of the 20th instant, by saying that my interest in the political problems of the day is in abeyance, except in so far as they have a bearing upon the conduct of the war, which is my all-absorbing concern just now.

"At the same time, the various services upon which I have been employed during the war have given me sufficient experience to enable me to answer the question you put to me. At the Ministry of Munitions I was closely connected with munition factories employing very large numbers of women. In France, I have had ample opportunities of observing at first hand the further magnificent service that the women of this country have rendered towards the prosecution of the war. It is perfectly clear to me that, by their service in the war, women have earned a right to an increasing share in the industrial life and destinies of the country, and, consequently, a growing interest in the adjustment and settlement of big political and social problems. It seems to me that the natural corollary to this must be the admission of women to the franchise, a right which they have earned, and which, in justice, they should receive. I can, therefore, say with confidence that I am prepared to support the Bill now before Parliament for the enfranchisement of women."

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Non-Party

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Current Work

Mrs Ralph Henriques, a member of the Women's Municipal Party, St. Marylebone Advisory Committee, was **elected to the St. Marylebone Borough Council** on July 19th, to fill the vacancy in Portman Ward.

Holborn Advisory Committee. (Chairman: Mrs. Banister-Fletcher; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. W. R. Smith) approached their Borough Council on July 26th, asking that consideration be given to the question of a woman being elected to the present vacancy in South Bloomsbury—when it is filled in the Autumn. After prolonged discussion the Council decided in the negative.

A new Advisory Committee has been formed in **Stepney** (Chairman: Mrs. Model.)

Miss de Selincourt has been elected Chairman of the **Hampstead** Advisory Committee. Dr. Mary Douie, Hon. Secretary.

Upper Norwood Citizen Association Monthly Meeting August 2nd. Speaker: Lady Griffith Boscawen on "War Savings."

The Women's Municipal Party now has **17 Advisory Committees** in the Metropolitan area.

90 new Members have joined the Party during July.

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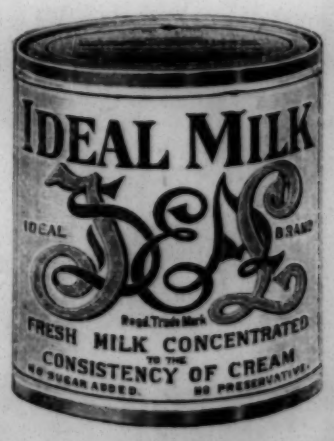

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Equal Opportunities.

Of the three war cries with which Revolutionary France startled the polite ears of eighteenth century Europe, none has given rise to more dispute than Equality. Liberty, with strange limitations and differences of interpretation, has been acknowledged as the political ideal of most of Europe and of America. Fraternity has always been preached by small bands of Christians, socialists, and idealists of all kinds; and has too generally been put aside by the majority as something outside the sphere of politics. But no set of people have ever been able to agree about Equality. Even the introduction of the adjective "equal" into a discussion on political or social matters is apt to lead to misunderstanding. It is, therefore, worth while to try rather hard to know what we mean when we talk of equal opportunities for women. Do we mean identical opportunities? And do we want a levelling up or a levelling down? Most people would say "No" to the first question, but in practice it is very difficult to explain what we mean by opportunities that are equal, but not the same. With regard to the second question, in theory we should all affirm that we want levelling up, but in practice, levelling down is often suggested. For instance, it is sometimes contended that middle-class women should refrain from doing certain kinds of work, which they do particularly well, because their good material conditions and their good education gives them an unfair advantage over those who have had to struggle against poverty. But apart from the damage to the community which such an abstention must in the end entail, it is surely unjust to the individual to demand it, and, socially, a council of despair. It is as cruel to withhold from a person the right of doing work for which she is fitted by capacity and training, as to withhold education or material sustenance. A working woman said at a recent conference that what women wanted was not so much the right to work, for most of them already had too much work, but rather the right to live. This is certainly true of millions of women. Work, work, and still more work, is demanded of them by the community, but the community takes no care that, in recognition of their work, they should have support, leisure, happiness, in fact, the rest of life. On the other hand, there are, or have been, millions of women who have had support and leisure provided for them, but have been refused the right to work. It is quite as hard to be made into a parasite as to be made into a slave. What we must aim at in the future is that there shall be no slaves and no parasites, but that every individual man or woman shall have the opportunity of healthy life, of thorough education, and of doing his or her chosen work.

The Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations has recommended that in deciding to what extent women are to continue to work after the war in the industries in which they have replaced men, the criterion should be suitability, and not cheapness. It is a recommendation which most of us would endorse, and it might be extended to the whole relations of women and men. Few feminists would deny that there are some kinds of work and some kinds of life for which women are less suitable than men. Fewer still would contend that women ought to be encouraged to do the things for which they are not suited. But we do maintain that it is only in a state of freedom in which full opportunities are given to all that it is possible to decide what people are suited for. "There are thousands of such women," said Mr. Asquith, speaking of one of the special opportunities of the war, "and a year ago we did not know it." We are very far from knowing yet what women can do. They have made the best of the opportunities of these three hard pressed years, in which most of them have still had to be satisfied with subordinate posts and inadequate training. What might they not do if all the barriers were down? When all women are allowed to be trained for, and to do, any work they can do, and wish to do; when women's "proper" work is rewarded as it should be, with honour and leisure, and the right to live; when the human race has recovered from the paralysing suggestion that half of it are not complete human beings; then, and only then, we shall begin to understand what are the natural disabilities of women. Till then we can only guess. I. B. O'M.

The Human Results of the Industrial Revolution.

The Town Labourer. By J. L. and Barbara Hammond (published Longmans, Green & Co. 10s. 6d.)

In the preface to this deeply interesting and valuable book, the writers tell us that it was nearly ready for publication in the summer of 1914, when it was put on one side for the more pressing tasks of the war. They have published it now "because the subject it discusses has a direct bearing on problems that are beginning to engage the attention of the nation as the war draws, however slowly, to its end."

This volume is the first part of a study of the Industrial Revolution which, in the years between 1760 and 1832, separated England from her past as completely as the political revolution separated France from hers in the same years. The social system which was introduced at that time has survived, though not unquestioned, to the present day. All through the nineteenth century economic power has been thought of as an object in itself, and men and women have been regarded as the servants of that power.

"The war has shaken that philosophy as nothing else has shaken it. It has brought in its train evils and dangers sufficiently ominous and manifest, but it has undermined the stability of conventions that seemed secure five years ago. Men and women refuse to believe that England must always remain two nations. They are in revolt against 'iron laws' and the predestinations of 'economic necessity.' New lessons have been learned from the sacrifices made by every home, in a struggle with a spirit that presents the most sinister aspects of the industrial system in a military form. For as the world sees what kind of life Europe would lead under the shadow of a gospel which makes a god of military power, so it comes to understand what humanity must lose if it makes a god of industrial power. On the will and capacity of the nation to bring to its problems the ideals for which the noblest of its sons have given their lives, the future of England depends."

The beginnings of the industrial revolution have thus a direct bearing on the problems of to-day, and those who are determined that the present great struggle shall lead to better conditions than those which followed the struggles of a hundred years ago, will be well advised to study the period treated in this book.

From one point of view, it was a period of great prosperity and great success. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond open their first chapter with a quotation from Macaulay, which sums up this aspect of it:—

"Our fields are cultivated with a skill unknown elsewhere, with a skill which has extracted rich harvests from moors and morasses. Our houses are filled with conveniences which the kings of former times might have envied. Our bridges, our canals, our modes of communication fill every stranger with wonder. Nowhere are manufactures carried to such perfection. Nowhere does man exercise such dominion over matter."

But it had another side to it, and it is with the other side that the writers of this book are concerned. They leave to others the description of England's material progress, of her advance in scientific knowledge, in mechanical invention, and in industrial power. The question they ask is how did these things, and the political and economic theories which led to them, and were strengthened by them, affect the mass of human beings in this country? What, in fact, was the condition of the people?

A bitter answer was given to that question in the Chartist petition presented to the House of Commons a few years later than the period which is treated in this book:—

"We, your petitioners, dwell in a land whose merchants are noted for their enterprise, whose manufacturers are very skilful, and whose workmen are proverbial for their industry. The land itself is goodly, the soil rich, and the temperature wholesome. It is abundantly furnished with materials of commerce and trade; it has numerous and convenient harbours; in facility of internal communication it exceeds all others. For three and twenty years we have enjoyed a profound peace—yet with all these elements of national prosperity, and with every disposition and capacity to take advantage of them, we find ourselves overwhelmed with public and private suffering. We are bowed down under a load of taxes; our traders are trembling on the verge of bankruptcy; our workmen are starving, capital brings no profit and labour no remuneration; the house of the artificer is desolate, and the warehouse of the pawnbroker is full; the workhouse is crowded, and the manufactory is deserted. We have looked on every side, we have searched diligently in order to find out the causes of a distress, so sore and so long continued. We can discover none in nature or Providence. Heaven has dealt graciously with the people; but the foolishness of our rulers has made the goodness of God of none effect."

Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have enquired more closely than the Chartists were able to do into the causes which made "the goodness of God of none effect." In doing so, they have made a close study of a long series of unexplored Home Office papers, as well as of more generally known authorities. The result of their patient, scientific research is set forth in a series of chapters, illuminated by that imaginative insight which is the historian's most precious gift. They describe the growth of the new power of capitalism, the discipline it imposed, the 'justice' it executed, the order it enforced, the civilisation—if civilisation it can be called—which it produced.

What that civilisation has meant for the majority of men in this country has been partly revealed in the course of the long struggles for the enfranchisement of the working classes and for the freedom of trade unions. What it has meant for the majority of women, we can even now hardly begin to guess. A modern revolutionary embittered, like the Chartists, by the wrongs done to humanity, has said, "The worker is the slave of a capitalist society, the female worker is the slave of that slave." If the words be thought extreme—and they are those of an extremist—it will, at any rate, be recognised that in a state of society in which economic *laissez faire*, rather than a high standard of life is the aim, that part of the population which is physically the weakest must go to the wall. In the darkness which shrouds the history of the most voiceless of the "unenfranchised voiceless millions" we know little of the lives of female workers till quite recent years, and still less—practically nothing—of the lives of the great mass of poor women in their own homes. On these matters the authorities quoted in this book throw some light. We hear, for instance, that in the mining districts, where women were employed as "drawers" in carrying or pushing the corves containing the coal won by the hewers, "the men liked women in this capacity, finding them easy to manage, and yet too spirited to let others pass them."

But of all the chapters in this book, it is those which deal with the employment of children which have the most poignant interest. The authors have put together all the facts about the infant slaves of the factory and the mine and the chimneys that were revealed in the reports of the various Government Commissions, and in all the evidence obtained so hardly, and in the face of so much hostility, by the few who took this national shame to heart. It was evidence to which the majority of the comfortable classes were for many years deafer than the adder. The time it took to obtain reforms would be almost incredible, if one did not know how slowly Parliament moves, even in these more democratic days. Lord Shaftesbury and other reformers wore out their lives in the struggle, and one will never know how many children's lives were worn out, or crushed, or corrupted, before their liberators triumphed.

The Chartists attributed the "load of public and private suffering" by which they were overwhelmed, to "the foolishness of their rulers." If the word ruler be extended to include all the governing classes, and the word foolishness to include all wrong theories about life, the authors of this book do not very much differ from them. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond do not attribute the miseries of the years they write about to mechanical progress, still less to iron economic laws, but rather to wrong thought:—

"The more closely any period of history is studied, the more clearly does it appear that the mistakes and troubles of an age are due to a false spirit, an unhappy fashion in thought or emotion, a tendency in the human mind to be overwhelmed by the phenomena of the time, and to accept these phenomena as the guide to conduct and judgment, instead of checking and criticising them by a reasoned standard of their own, men come to think that it is their business to explain rather than to control the forces of the hour."

Those who governed the thought of England and the lives of her people between 1760 and 1832 found comfort for the wretchedness of others and justification for their own well-being in the political philosophy which had been developed from the teachings of Locke, in "the economic theory that started with Petty and his contemporaries, and pursued a course of its own through Adam Smith, Ricardo, and Malthus"; and in a strange deformation of the Christian religion. The rich learnt to regard society as a community of shareholders in which a man's stake was his property. Employers were taught that in taking what labour they wanted, at what price they chose, and under what conditions they thought proper, they were obeying an economic law with which it would be dangerous to interfere. Radical philosophers believed and preached that "All legislative interference (with industry) must be pernicious. Men must be left to themselves to make their own bargains; the law must compel the observance of contracts. There it must end. So long as the supply of labour exceeds the demand for labour, the labourer will undersell his fellows, and produce poverty, misery, vice, and crime." No help came from them to the people;

"the only party that was able to help the labourers in their struggles against the social power of the rich was the prisoner of its own abstractions." And, by the strangest vagary of all, Christianity, the religion of the poor, was so interpreted that Dives came to believe that if only he gave crumbs to Lazarus, plentifully and kindly, it was well both for Lazarus and him, and for the world that each should remain in his own place.—But all this should be read at length in the entrancingly interesting chapters called "The Conscience of the Rich" and the "Defences of the Poor."

These chapters, and, indeed, every page of the book, provoke insistent questions in the mind of the reader. Conditions have, indeed, changed since the days described in them. The political responsibility which is the birthright and the burden of all the enfranchised, has been widely distributed, and is about to be more widely distributed still. Some of the cruelty and oppression of which the authors write has melted into what seems an incredible past. Some of the bonds in which the minds of our forefathers were imprisoned have been cast off. But we know that we are struggling against spiritual bonds of our own, we know, alas! that our own age still tolerates evil and injustice as bad as the things which seem incredible in the past. One cannot read "The Town Labourer" at this time without asking oneself whether the great transitions of the present age will lead to something better than those of the industrial revolution, and whether the new generations of citizens—who will themselves be the rulers—will learn that wisdom and respect for all humanity, without which the "goodness of God" will still "be made of none effect."

I. B. O'Malley.

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

We are most grateful to those kind friends who have already responded to our appeal for help for the new Common Cause Hut for British Women War Workers in France.

We earnestly hope that all those who are now beginning their holidays, will think of the needs of these girls for rest and recreation. Contributions should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1.

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THE RANK OF WAR NURSES.

Madam,—A cutting from an American paper—*The Chicago Post* of June 14th—which has come into my possession throws an interesting light on the views of some persons in the U.S.A. on the mission of the American nurses coming to Europe to serve in our military hospitals.

I have heard much praise of the skill and training of these nurses, and I am sure that their services to the sick and wounded will be of great value, but for the sake of the peace and harmony of the nursing staffs of the hospitals to which they are appointed, I hope that the article to which I have referred does not represent correctly the views of these nurses themselves as to their British comrades. It begins with the statement: "In England, in peace, as well as in war, a trained nurse is a 'menial.' She is a 'private' without chance of promotion," and goes on to suggest that on entering British war hospitals the American nurses will cease to be treated as they have been in their own country, and will "enter into the position of servants, cut off from their customary surroundings by an iron wall of caste," and obliged to see "social position rather than professional ability determine the choice of supervisers of nurses." Upon this point, it continues, "our nurses base their present plea that Congress give them some sort of rank as military officers."

While not disputing the fact that the position of the trained nurse in England in peace time is by no means all that one could wish, I should like to correct some of those statements.

The only type of war hospital in which trained nurses are liable to work under the authority of women selected on account of their social position are private hospitals which have obtained recognition from the War Office, and V. A. D. hospitals, managed by an untrained commandant. These represent only a very small fraction of the hospital accommodation provided for our armies, and it is most unlikely that American nurses will be asked to serve in them. The military hospitals under the direct control of the War Office, in which the vast majority of sick and wounded soldiers are nursed are staffed by trained nurses of the regular Army Nursing Service, Q. A. M. N. S. (active and reserve), and Territorial force, all of whom rank as officers.

Staff nurses rank as 3rd lieutenants, sisters as lieutenants, matrons as majors, and the matron-in-chief in each command has the rank of colonel. Their position, and authority over the V. A. D. nurses and male orderlies, is one quite definite and undisputed.

I think it is worth while that the misstatements referred to above should be contradicted as widely as possible, as their acceptance in the U.S.A. is calculated to cause ill-feeling between British and American nurses who may be called upon to work together, though up to the present, I believe, the Americans are working in separate units.

E. Kentish-Wright.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Violet Eustace. Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary). Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary: Miss Edith Stopford.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless 'phone, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The Office will be closed on Bank Holiday, August 6th.

1917 Franchise Fund.

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Already acknowledged ...	1,747	6	10
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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Appreciation of the S.W.H. by British Shipping Firm.

The Committee of the S.W.H. have very much pleasure in acknowledging the kind gift of the Directors of the Ellerman Line, for the care and attention bestowed upon the survivors of the "City of Paris" in the Scottish Women's Hospital (Manchester and District Field Hospital Unit) in Corsica.

The sum of 1,000 francs was sent to the Consul, with a request to present the greater part of it to the general funds of the Hospital, but that a small share should be devoted to the purchase of souvenirs for the two Doctors, Dr. Marian Erskine and Dr. Mary Philips, and the Matron and Sister of the ward, all of whom, with the other members of the staff, had been untiring in their efforts to help their fellow countrymen and women, who had come through such terrible experiences of the barbarity of our common enemy, the Hun, when the "City of Paris" was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean.

MAGNIFICENT RESULT OF A MATINEE IN AID OF THE S.W.H.

The Committee of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee of the S.W.H. are to be congratulated on the very large amount realised at the recent matinee in Glasgow. After all expenses have been paid, the sum of £2,650 15s. 1d. has been sent in to headquarters.

Please read this AGAIN! The matter is URGENT!

WELCOME to FRANCE!

"Where is the 'Common Cause' HUT?"

A NEW EFFORT FOR "Common Cause" readers

A few months ago the readers of this journal generously subscribed over £1,000 for the building, equipment and maintenance of "The Common Cause" Hut which is now proving such a huge boon to the munition workers in and around Coventry. We now make a NEW appeal for a similar hut, for the use of the girls and women who have so nobly volunteered with the Women's Auxiliary Army IN FRANCE.

Thousands of brave girls are leaving their homes and country to go to a land where, to most of them, the language and surroundings are all strange, and the conditions of living quite different from what they have been used to at home. On their arrival in France, the happiest welcome they can have is to be able to go to a Y.W.C.A. hut, where they can get rest and refreshment and the companionship and help of their own countrywomen.

A "Common Cause" HUT for FRANCE

The Young Women's Christian Association have asked the Editor of "The Common Cause" to provide one of these huts, to be paid for and supported entirely by readers of this journal, and to be called

"THE COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

Such a hut is sadly wanted now, but it will become an even more urgent necessity as soon as the winter comes upon us. To be in readiness to shelter the girls from the cold and wet and snow, it is necessary to start the erection of the hut immediately, and we earnestly appeal to our readers to send us their Donations without delay.

The total amount asked for is £900, which is made up as follows:—

£500 TO PROVIDE THE HUT.
£200 TO EQUIP IT,
£200 TO MAINTAIN IT FOR 1 YEAR.

£900 (Total)

Remember! This "named" Hut will be a perpetual reminder to our girls in France of our love and sympathy for them, and will incidentally give publicity in France to the great cause which our journal represents.

"Bis dat qui cito dat"

—"(S) he gives twice who gives promptly" applies with particular force in this instance. The quicker your donations are sent in and the more generous they are, the quicker the hut will be ready for the girls. Will you please send your "bit." NOW?

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W. 1.

Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause" Hut for our Girls in France,

viz.: _____

wishing it every success.

Signed _____

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Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to July 19th, 1917	226,818	12	5
Further donations received to July 26th, 1917:—			
*15th Weekly Penny Collection in Greenock, per Miss Etta Shankland (total collected for April, May, and June £361 6s. 11d.)	18	1	11
Mr. Willan, per Mrs. Todd ...	1	1	0
Miss Mary Boyd	5	0	0
Girls of the Central High School, Manchester, per Miss Mary A. Johnstone, B.Sc., Headmistress	2	10	0
Per Miss Janet Smith, subscribed by the Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, to support bed (monthly donation)	6	4	2
Miss W. M. Burd, per Mrs. Ring, Sec. Birmingham W.S.S.		3	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co., Ltd. (£4 12s.), Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (69th con.) (£2 11s.)	7	3	0
*Per Miss Craigie: Sale of Appeals		14	0
Per the Rev. David Scott: From "Two Friends"	5	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: Employees Messrs. Fiddes & Sons, per Williamina Smith, for "Aberdeen Workers'" bed (American Unit) (6th don.)		10	0
Miss Elsie Cameron Corbett, Motor Ambulance (American Unit)	188	10	0
*Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S., per Miss Sloane, M.A., Hon. Sec. and Treas.	2	5	0
*Per Miss Craigie: Sale of Post Cards (13s.), Sale of Appeals (4s.)		17	0
*Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com., per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas.: Proceeds of Alhambra Matinée and Prize Drawings in aid of the S.W.H.	2,650	15	1
Mrs. Goldsmith, per Dr. Ivens, Royaumont...		10	0
*Mrs. Tiffany, New York (monthly donation)	5	4	2
	£229,713	0	9

* Denotes further donations.

Serbian Prisoners of War Fund.

(FIFTH LIST.)

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list to May 19th, 1917	125	8	2
Further donations received to July 26th, 1917:—			
Miss E. J. Sloane, Hon. Sec., Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S.	3	3	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee, per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., result of collection in Cranston Picture House	38	14	0
Collected by Pupils at Craigton Higher Grade School, per Alexander Sands, Esq., Clerk and Treasurer, Peterculter School Board, Aberdeen, per Miss Craigie	1	7	0
Miss Glyde, Gurinfain, Leigham Avenue, Streatham, London, S.W. 16	1	0	0
	£170	12	2

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, writing from Reni at the end of June, asks for a consignment of stores to be sent out in October. Offers to supply any articles in the following list will be gratefully received, and should be addressed to Miss Hoc at the London Office:—

6 dozen	Coarse Aprons.	100	Mattress Covers, 3 ft. x 6 ft.
6 ,,	Kitchen Cloths.		Dressing-gowns.
6 ,,	Floor Cloths.		Day Socks.
6 ,,	Dusters.		Warm Gloves.

Hospital "B," under Dr. Chesney, is stationed at Tecuci, in that part of Roumania where the Roumanian Army is now making successful progress. The Hospital has been established since March, and is very well prepared for hard work.

Funds are urgently needed for upkeep and for stores. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurers, the Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Miss May Curwen, the Organising Secretary, is making a tour of the South Coast, and will be holding meetings in several of the large towns, in hotels, and on the beach. She will be extremely grateful for any offers of help in distributing leaflets and in making collections, etc., at meetings. Communications should be addressed to her, care of the local Post Offices, or should be sent to 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

From July 31st to August 1st she will be at Southsea; from August 2nd to the 5th at Worthing; and from the 6th to the 8th at Bognor.

Miss Bell will be speaking on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Hastings on the 4th and 5th, and the Hon. Evelina Haverfield will probably be speaking at Bournemouth in mid-August. Dates will be announced later.

After August 9th, Miss Curwen will tour in the Isle of Wight; the dates and time and localities of meetings will be announced locally.

Erratum.—In the issue of July 27th, page 206, Liverpool Local S. W. H. Committee's Efforts, Miss May Curwen should read Miss Irene Curwen.

SUFFRAGE ORGANISER AS AREA CONTROLLER.

MADAM,—In your issue of July 20th, under the above heading, you have a little note recording the appointment of Miss Alice Low, formerly one of the organisers of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage. The Society is in the proud position of having given another Area Controller to the W.A.A.C. Miss Lisa M. Gordon, who was our Organising Secretary for nearly eight years, left us in May on being appointed Area Controller for the whole of Scotland.

Both these ladies are well known in Suffrage circles, and their qualities of tact and courtesy, as well as their exceptional gifts of organisation, augur well for their success in their new spheres of work.

K. M. LOUDON,
Hon. Secretary, E.N.S.W.S.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

London.

On the afternoon of Thursday, July 26th, the London Society for Women's Suffrage held an informal meeting of its members at the Caxton Hall to discuss the future of the National Union

Any members of National Union Societies who were in London were invited to attend, and the London Society were very glad to welcome the members from the Cambridge, Leeds, Malvern, and Staffordshire Societies who were present.

The chair was taken by Miss Rosamond Smith, who explained that the object of the meeting was not to pass resolutions, but to discuss informally: (a) the future work of the Society, (b) the possibilities of co-operation between the National Union and other societies.

A letter was read from Mrs. Fawcett, expressing her interest in the conference, and her regret that she was unable to be present, as she was in the country.

Several useful and suggestive speeches were made. Miss Chadwick spoke on the formation of the women's party in Norway, and Miss Milton on the importance of founding Women Citizens' Associations. Mr. Oliver Strachey outlined a plan for the future of the N.U.W.S.S. based on: (1) an enlargement of the object of the Union to include the general principle of equality of opportuuity for men and women; (2) an alteration in the rules to allow of almost complete freedom for the individual societies to take up work for the reforms which specially appealed to them. Mrs. Rackham thought that if the societies had such complete independence of action as Mr. Strachey wished to give them, it would be exceedingly difficult to preserve any cohesion at all. She thought they might have a great deal of freedom in practical work, but that about questions of propaganda there would have to be some unity. She thought that perhaps the Council might decide from year to year what the Union should do as a whole, and that besides that, the Executive Committee should hold a watching brief for "women's interests." She hoped great things from the increased interest and vigour that the National Union would gain from the fact of its members being voters.

Miss Lowndes spoke on the industrial difficulties of women in the immediate future, and other interesting suggestions were made by Mrs. Percy Bigland, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Mrs. Harrington, Miss Leigh Browne, and Mrs. Theodore Williams.

Cambridge.—A meeting of the Cambridge W.S.A. was held on July 27th in the Hall of Newnham College (by kind permission of the Principal) in celebration of the recent majority in the House of Commons. Mrs. Heitland, from the chair, addressed us as "Members and Future Electors," and gave her reasons for anticipating that the end of the year would actually see the complete enfranchisement of women on the lines of the Electoral Reform Bill. We might, therefore, rejoice in the midst of tribulation. After fifty years of peaceful effort, the stress of the war had at last, as it were suddenly, convinced the mass of the public of the need for the full intelligent, trained strength of the entire population, and this necessarily involved the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Heitland referred feelingly to the loss of three of our vice-presidents in the current year, Professor Hughes, Mr. Matthew, Professor E. C. Clarke, all of whom were staunch and active supporters. We had a special cause for rejoicing in the local by-elections, which retained for us Mr. E. Montagu, a proved friend, and gave us a distinguished representative and strong suffragist in Sir Eric Geddes, in place of Mr. Almeric Paget, none of whose acts had given us more pleasure than his resignation of his seat. Cambridge was at last able to hold up her male and female head. Mrs. Heitland then introduced Mrs. Stocks, who gave an excellent address on the "Coming of Woman Suffrage." Though the title she had chosen sounded rash, she believed it was not so, for we had won a series of strategic victories: (1) we had never had a Bill carried beyond the second reading until now; (2) when the Bill was to be brought in, the Prime Minister sent specially for the Parliamentary Secretary of the N. U. The actual introduction of the Bill was memorable for Mr. Asquith's gracious speech acknowledging his conversion, and, again, it was evident that the Government were determined to stand or fall by Clause IV., which was thus the real nucleus of the Bill. (3) The majority in the free vote of the House was 7 to 1 in our favour. On the other hand, there were still dangers to be encountered. The Bill consisted of 33 clauses; it was admittedly a compromise which involved the risk of wrecking amendments in Committee, and it had still to pass the House of Lords. Assuming, however, that all these dangers were surmounted, the New Electorate would largely be exclusive, on account of the age limit, of industrial women, who most needed the vote. The married working-women were the most inarticulate class in the whole State, and the most isolated, unless they were members of the Women's Co-operative Guild. But they were beginning to be conscious of economic needs, and would help the solution of practical problems, such as the Endowment of Maternity.

Mrs. Councillor Keynes, in proposing the vote of thanks to Mrs. Stocks, said we were in sight of the promised land, which was not exactly flowing with milk and honey, but still it was a *promising* land! She pointed out how desirable it was to amend the Bill so as to give the Local Government vote to those women who were to have the Parliamentary vote.

There was a good attendance in spite of the heat.

Forthcoming Meetings.

AUGUST 3.

London Society—Finchley Branch, Great North Road, East Finchley—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young—Subject: "Votes and Reconstruction." 7 p.m.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.—

DURING AUGUST.—South Coast towns and Isle of Wight—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. (See paragraph on page .)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, at 4.30, at Everfield Hotel, Hastings.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, at 8.30, at Alexandra Hotel, Hastings.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5th, at 8.30, at Albany Hotel, Hastings.

Speaker: Miss Maud Bell.

Items of Interest.

Russian Women in Action.

The "Women's Battalion of Death," which left Petrograd for the front on July 6th, has already been in action. It suffered heavy casualties in the recent fighting, in which the women set a fine example to the rest of the army. The commander of the battalion, Mme. Botcyhareva, was wounded, and her lieutenant, Mme. Skrydlova, is suffering from shell shock.

The *Observer* for Sunday, July 29th, has an interesting account of the women's journey from Petrograd to the front, and their reception by their male comrades, which does not seem to have been altogether encouraging. Some of the men appear to have thought at first that the women's battalion was there for evil purposes, while others said to them, "They'll never let you get to the front. The Extremists have sent us word, and we'll kill you before we permit you to." We are not told, however, that any attempt was made to carry out this threat.

Allowances for Mothers?

A letter on agricultural wages by a member of the Norfolk Education Committee, published in the *Daily News* for July 26th, contains an interesting suggestion. The writer states that on comparing the present state of health of the school children in agricultural districts of the county with their condition before the war, he has found that "where the father is away, and separation allowances are the support of the family, the children are better nourished than they have ever been. But where the fathers are at home, and only earning 25s. a week, the children have not enough nourishing food." He goes on to suggest that instead of paying a fixed rate of wages to all labourers, whether married or single, the rate should be settled by employers and workmen themselves, subject to Wages Board regulations, and that the nation should add a separate allowance of 2s. 6d. a week per child, paid to the wife. "It is not true economy," he concludes, "to pay a single man enough to maintain a family of five, nor is it true economy to pay a family of ten wages only sufficient for a family of five."

A Holiday Occupation.

In certain districts there has been a perfect plague of butterflies, and millions of eggs have already hatched out. Gardeners and allotment holders are busy removing the young caterpillars, and in this work school children can give much assistance during the holidays. At Southend prizes have been offered to the boys and girls who catch the greatest number of butterflies.

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THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.
1s., 3s., and 5s. 6d. of all Chemists.
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LADY, trained Nurse, capable and good organiser, to take entire charge of Medical Nursing Home.—Box 6,807, Common Cause Office.

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POSITIONS WANTED.

LADY wishes post as Companion-Housekeeper where maid is kept.—Write Miss MacPhail, 10, Oakfield Terrace, Glasgow, W.

LADY SECRETARY, experienced shorthand typist, seeks after holiday, half-day work; London.—Address H. W., Box 6,812, Common Cause Office.

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THE BETTERMENT BOOK ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY, 40a, ROSSLYN HILL, N.W. Specimens now on view of TRANSPARENT CRYSTAL MINIATURES. Orders taken for these unique portraits, painted on glass from either professional or amateur photographs.

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[Continued on page 220

Continued from page 219

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training to suit present crisis; vegetable, fruit, and flower culture, fruit bottling and jam making; healthy out-door life; individual consideration; long or short courses.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

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Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S., Chemist, coaches women students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

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N.U.W.S.S.

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